

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, during the past century, tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by Americans; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is home to more than 670,000 veterans; and

WHEREAS, the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces; and

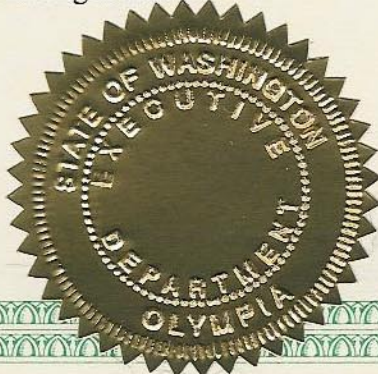
WHEREAS, the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has enacted legislation declaring November of each year as Veterans' History Awareness Month, and designating the week in which Veterans Day occurs as a time to celebrate and commemorate the contributions of our veterans;

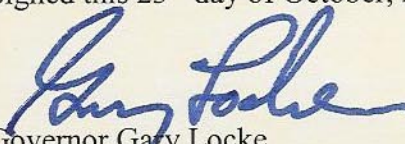
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2003, as

Veterans' History Awareness Month

In Washington State.



Signed this 23rd day of October, 2003


Governor Gary Locke